
DNA REPLICATION

SECOND EDITION

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W. H. FREEMAN AND COMPANY
New York

COVER:

A looped rolling circle of the duplex replicative form of phage ϕ X174, based on an electron micrograph provided by Dr Jack Griffith. See Fig. 8-13 for more detail. (Design by Robert Ishi)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Kornberg, Arthur, 1918-

DNA replication. — 2d ed./by Arthur Kornberg and Tania A. Baker.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

ISBN 0-7167-2003-5

1. DNA — Synthesis. I. Baker, Tania A. II. Title.

QP624.K668 1991

574.87'3282 — dc20

90-26456

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Printed in the United States of America

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thesis by 5-fluorodeoxyuridylate (FdUMP) requires methylene tetrahydrofolate for covalent binding to thymidylate synthase. Because the inhibition of DHFR by methotrexate prevents regeneration of the tetrahydrofolate, the supply of methylene tetrahydrofolate is depleted and FdUMP is unable to form the ternary complex necessary for prolonged inhibition. With the level of dTTP and its ratio to dUTP diminished, the incorporation of uracil into DNA is increased (Section 15-10) and breakage of DNA is more frequent.

An Inhibitor of Nucleoside Triphosphate Synthesis

Cyclamidomycin (pyracrimycin A, desdanine)¹⁸ is a specific inhibitor of nucleoside diphosphate kinase in *E. coli*. This ubiquitous enzyme produces NTPs, including ATP, and is thus crucial to all macromolecular syntheses.

Catabolite Analogs

The effectiveness of biosynthetic analogs often depends on their being converted to the nucleotide form and avoiding removal by catabolic enzymes. Potentiation of the antitumor and toxic activity of 6-mercaptopurine by allopurinol (Fig. 14-4) may be due to inhibition of xanthine oxidase by the latter (Section 3). Inhibitors of adenosine deaminase not only potentiate the antitumor activity of adenosine analogs, but one of these, 2'-deoxycoformycin (pentostatin; Fig. 14-4), even when administered alone, produces remissions in patients with acute leukemia derived from T lymphocytes.¹⁹

14-3 Nucleotide Analogs Incorporated into DNA or RNA²⁰

Certain analogs of the NTPs, modified in the sugar or base, are accepted by polymerases for pairing with the DNA template and are incorporated into nucleic acid, but subsequently block further chain growth or interfere with nucleic acid functions (Table 14-3 and Fig. 14-5).

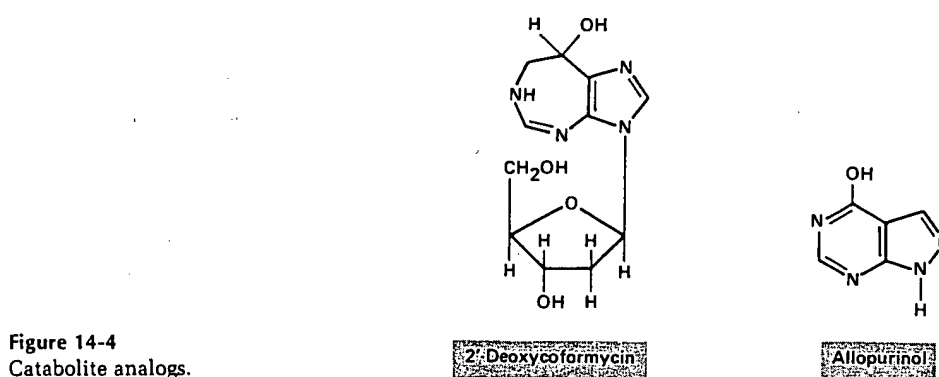


Figure 14-4
Catabolite analogs.

18. Saeki T, Hori M, Umezawa H (1975) *J Antibiot* 28:974.

19. Cass CE (1979) in *Antibiotics V* (Hahn FE, ed.). Springer-Verlag, New York, p. 85.

20. Elion GB (1989) *Science* 244:41.

Table 14-3
Nucleotide analogs incorporated into DNA or RNA

Analog	Incorporated into DNA or RNA	Inhibition
CHAIN TERMINATORS		
2',3'-Dideoxy-NTPs	DNA	chain growth, 3'→5' exonuclease
AZT (azidothymidine)		
Arabinosyl NTPs (araC, araA)		
Acyclovir NTP	DNA (analog of G)	chain growth (herpes DNA polymerase)
Cordycepin TP (3'-deoxyATP)	DNA, RNA	chain growth
3'-Amino ATP		
DEFECTIVE NUCLEIC ACID		
Uracil dNTP (dUTP)	DNA (analog of T)	DNA integrity: excision leads to chain breakage
5-Hydroxyuridine TP	RNA	syntheses and functions of DNA and RNA
5-Aminouridine TP		
5-Bromouracil dNTP	DNA (analog of T)	fidelity of replication (mutation); differentiation
5-Iodouracil dNTP		
5-Azacytidine TP	RNA, DNA (analog of C)	processing of rRNA (defective)
Allopurinol (NTP)*	RNA (analog of A)	xanthine oxidase; antiprotozoal
Tubercidin TP	DNA, RNA	syntheses and functions of DNA and RNA
Toyocamycin TP		
Formycin		
7-Deazanebularin		
2-Aminopurine dNTP	DNA (analog of A)	fidelity of replication (mutation)
2-Aminoadenine dNTP (2,6-diaminopurine)		
6-Thioguanine dNTP	DNA (analog of G)	fidelity of replication (mutation)
UNCLASSIFIED		
2'-Deoxy-2'-azidocytidine NTP		initiation of polyoma DNA synthesis; <i>E. coli</i> primase

* 4-Hydroxypyrazolo(3,4-d)pyrimidine NTP.

Chain Termination

The 2',3'-dideoxyribonucleosides (Fig. 14-5), if converted to the triphosphates (ddNTPs), are incorporated into DNA at a very slow rate. In studies with *E. coli* pol I, the discrimination does not appear to be in the binding or base pairing of the analog but occurs at a subsequent stage in the reaction when the analog proves inadequate as a primer for the next polymerization event (Section 4-7). Because the analog lacks a 3'-OH group, proofreading excision of the analog is also exceedingly slow, and thus the block of chain growth is maintained. The strikingly specific inhibition of eukaryotic DNA polymerases β and γ (Section 6-1) suggests that strongly competitive binding by ddNTPs blocks the actions of these enzymes.

Acyclovir [9-(2-hydroxy-ethoxymethyl) guanine, acycloguanosine; Fig. 14-5] is one of several synthetic nucleoside analogs [9-(2,3-dihydroxypropyl) adenine is another]²¹ that are potent inhibitors of herpes simplex viruses. Acyclovir is

21. De Clercq E, Holy A (1979) *J Med Chem* 22:510; King GSD, Sengier L (1981) *J Chem Res (M)*:1501.

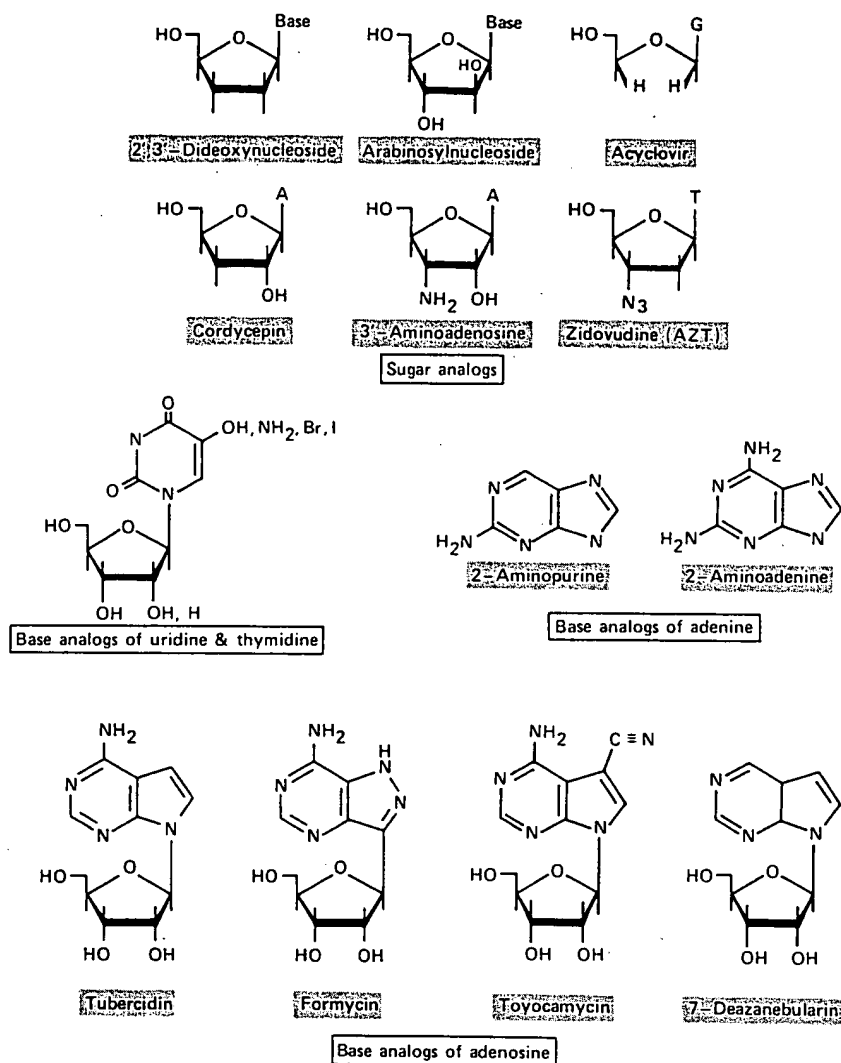


Figure 14-5
Nucleotide analogs incorporated into DNA or RNA.

effective as a drug because the analog is phosphorylated to acycloGMP by the herpes-encoded thymidine kinase, but not by the host cell enzyme. AcycloGMP, when further phosphorylated by host cell kinases to acycloGTP, inhibits the herpes-encoded DNA polymerase by a novel mechanism²² more profoundly than it does the host DNA polymerase. An x-ray diffraction analysis of the acycloguanosine structure²³ attempts to rationalize the remarkable affinities of the nucleoside analog and its phosphorylated derivatives for these otherwise highly specific enzymes.

Azidothymidine (3'-deoxy-3'-azidothymidine, AZT, zidovudine; Fig. 14-5) and 2',3'-dideoxycytidine (ddC) are among a group of nucleoside analogs²⁴ that

22. Reardon JE, Spector T (1989) *JBC* 264:7405.

23. Birnbaum GI, Cygler M, Kusmierek JT, Shugar D (1981) *BBRC* 103:968.

24. Mitsuya H, Broder S (1986) *PNAS* 83:1911; Halmos T, Montserret R, Antonakis K (1989) *NAR* 17:7663; Yarchoan R, Broder S (1989) *Pharmacol Ther* 40:329; Huang P, Farquhar D, Plunkett W (1990) *JBC* 265:11914.

are potent inhibitors of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) replication in cell culture; several have been used in the treatment of the disease AIDS. The nucleosides, converted to the active triphosphate form, inhibit the HIV reverse transcriptase activity, as well as terminating chains once incorporated. Adverse effects of the active forms of AZT and ddC on the host polymerases include the inhibition of both mitochondrial²⁵ and nuclear replication.

Arabinosides²⁶ (arabinosyl nucleosides; Fig. 14-5) are notable drugs; cytarabine (cytosine arabinoside, araC) is used to treat cancer, and vidarabine (adenine arabinoside, araA)²⁷ is an antiviral agent. Among many possibilities and claims for how the drugs act, the most tenable are based on incorporation of the arabinosides into DNA, where they distort the primer-template and block further DNA synthesis by chain termination. Still, the inhibitory action of araC at the stage of chain growth may be marked with certain of the prokaryotic (Section 5-2) and eukaryotic (Section 6-1) polymerases.

Because araC must be in the nucleoside triphosphate form to be active, circumstances that favor conversion of the nucleoside by deoxycytidine kinase enhance its clinical value. Competing with this kinase in some cells and tissues is a potent cytidine deaminase, which destroys the usefulness of araC as a drug. Curiously, the related arabinosyl analogs araT and araU occur naturally in sponges.²⁸

Cordycepin triphosphate²⁹ (3'-deoxyATP; Fig. 14-5) inhibits chain elongation by RNA and DNA polymerases by generating an inactive primer terminus. The nucleoside does not inhibit bacterial growth, probably because it is phosphorylated very poorly. The triphosphate strongly inhibits RNA synthesis in ascites tumor and HeLa cell lines and affects the addition of polyA segments to the 3' end of mRNAs. Like 3'-deoxyATP, 3'-amino ATP³⁰ inhibits RNA synthesis in isolated nuclei and extracts of ascites tumor cells by terminating elongation after addition to the primer. Although the nucleoside inhibits DNA synthesis in these cells, extracts show no inhibition of DNA synthesis by the triphosphate. Ribonucleotide reduction or RNA-synthesis-dependent DNA synthesis may be the targets of the inhibition in vivo.

Defective Nucleic Acid

Uracil incorporation into DNA by way of dUTP probably occurs to a significant extent under normal circumstances and can be extensive when the ratio of dUTP to dTTP is elevated (Sections 2-9 and 15-10). Uracil in DNA is recognized as foreign and is excised by an N-glycosylase. Mutants defective in the glycosylase can accumulate uracil to levels nearly equimolar with thymine without obvious malfunction of the DNA. Extreme examples are phages in which thymine is completely replaced by uracil or hydroxymethyluracil (Section 17-8).

Uridine and deoxyuridine analogs with 5-hydroxy or 5-amino substituents inhibit the synthesis of DNA, RNA, and protein in *E. coli* and interfere, in undetermined ways, with the functions of the RNA and DNA molecules into which they are incorporated.

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